

**§ 54.403 Lifeline support amount.**

(a) The federal baseline Lifeline support amount shall equal \$3.50 per qualifying low-income consumer. If the state commission approves an additional reduction of \$1.75 in the amount paid by consumers, additional federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$1.75 will be made available to the carrier providing Lifeline service to that consumer. Additional federal Lifeline support in an amount equal to one-half the amount of any state Lifeline support will be made available to the carrier providing Lifeline service to a qualifying low-income consumer if the state commission approves an additional reduction in the amount paid by that consumer equal to the state support multiplied by 1.5. The federal Lifeline support amount shall not exceed \$7.00 per qualifying low-income consumer.

(b) Eligible carriers that charge federal End-User Common Line charges or equivalent federal charges shall apply the federal baseline Lifeline support to waive Lifeline consumers' federal End-User Common Line charges. Such carriers shall apply any additional federal support amount to a qualifying low-income consumer's intrastate rate, if the state has approved of such additional support. Other carriers shall apply the federal baseline Lifeline support amount, plus the additional support amount, where applicable, to reduce their lowest tariffed (or otherwise generally available) residential rate for the services enumerated in § 54.101(a)(1) through (a)(9), and charge Lifeline consumers the resulting amount.

(c) Lifeline support for providing toll limitation shall equal the eligible telecommunications carrier's incremental cost of providing either toll blocking or toll control, whichever is selected by the particular consumer.

(d) In addition to the \$7.00 per qualifying low-income consumer described in paragraph (a) of this section, eligible incumbent local exchange carriers that serve qualifying low-income consumers who have toll blocking shall receive federal Lifeline support in amounts equal to the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge that incumbent local exchange carriers would be permitted to recover from such low-income consumers pursuant to § 69.153(b)

of this chapter. Eligible incumbent local exchange carriers that serve qualifying low-income consumers who have toll blocking shall apply this support to waive qualifying low-income consumers' presubscribed interexchange carrier charges. A competitive eligible telecommunications carrier that serves qualifying low-income consumers who have toll blocking shall receive federal Lifeline support in an amount equal to the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge that the incumbent local exchange carrier in that area would be permitted to recover, if it served those consumers.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 2128, Jan. 13, 1998]

**§ 54.405 Carrier obligation to offer Lifeline.**

All eligible telecommunications carriers shall make available Lifeline service, as defined in § 54.401, to qualifying low-income consumers.

**§ 54.407 Reimbursement for offering Lifeline.**

(a) Universal service support for providing Lifeline shall be provided directly to the eligible telecommunications carrier, based on the number of qualifying low-income consumers it serves, under administrative procedures determined by the Administrator.

(b) The eligible telecommunications carrier may receive universal service support reimbursement for each qualifying low-income consumer served. For each consumer receiving Lifeline service, the reimbursement amount shall equal the federal support amount, including the support amount described in § 54.403(c). The eligible telecommunications carrier's universal service support reimbursement shall not exceed the carrier's standard, non-Lifeline rate.

(c) In order to receive universal service support reimbursement, the eligible telecommunications carrier must keep accurate records of the revenues it forgoes in providing Lifeline in conformity with § 54.401. Such records shall be kept in the form directed by the Administrator and provided to the Administrator at intervals as directed by